



THE Tuzla Times

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"The Wings of Task Force Eagle"



(U.S. Air Force image by Capt. John Pope)



(U.S. Air Force image by Capt. John Pope)

Tactical controllers in charge

Tactical air controllers utilize a variety of high technology equipment in the field to better control close air support. Left, SSgt. Angel Medoza uses a GPS receiver to precisely locate his position. Above, the Tactical Air Control Party, with Maj. Domingo Castillo, Medoza and TSgt. Todd Green, is ready for action.

Tactical Air Control Party supports air mission

by Capt. John Pope

4100th Group (P) Public Affairs

They're lean. They're mean. They're the Tactical Air Control Party from the Air Liaison Office (ALO).

The ALO performs a separate and distinct mission from the other Air Force at Tuzla AB. Instead of managing the air field, the highly trained experts at the ALO provide direct support to the Army commanders in the field, calling in close air support (CAS) and air strikes as necessary.

"We basically advise, assist and control CAS for the ground commanders, from down at the battalion level all the way up to the division level," said SSgt. Angel Medoza, enlisted terminal attack controller, 1st Armored Division ALO. "There're different levels, but what TSgt. Todd Green (another member of the Tactical Air Control Party) and I do is control air strikes for the battalion and brigade commanders."

"If there's any viable target they want to hit, we come in to help decide if its a good target or not. If it is, we assist him by requesting the firepower. Once that's approved and the fighters come into the target area, we control them and direct them to the target," he said.

ALO personnel find themselves fully utilized in the B-H theater.

"We always go with the brigade commanders when they go out to check on a road block one of the warring factions has set up, a suspected mass grave, etc., just in case they need us. We're here to protect the peace and there's more than one way to do that," said Medoza.

In a recent mission, a Tactical Air Control Party from Tuzla was called to support an IFOR training exercise. The three day mission, which took place last week, called for a three man party consisting of Medoza, Green, and Maj. Domingo Castillo, 4th Brigade Air Liaison Officer.

"We were told there were going to be some Navy fighters at the Glamoc Range, a range in the British sector," said Medoza. "They needed some controllers to work with them. Usually, these things happen quickly, so we grabbed our bags, jumped on a helicopter and were there controlling them."

"The Navy had some fighters that hadn't done CAS before coming out of the Persian Gulf. They needed to get spun up on how to do CAS in Bosnia -- what it was like to work with NATO, the local terrain, weather, etc.," said Castillo.

The helicopter dropped the team at their observation point and they went to work.

"The first thing we do is set up. One guy sets up the GPS receiver and gets a good grid on our location. Another guy will be working the Tactical

Satellite Radio (TSR), calling in requests and letting them know we're ready to go. The last guy works with the Combat Integrated Targeting System (CITS)," said Medoza.

The CITS is a relatively new program that utilizes a laser to mark targets at a range and interfaces with the GPS to determine their actual coordinates.

"I 'binked' three different targets that day," said Medoza. "They gave us all the grids of the tactical area."

Binking is a term used by the controllers to indicate a target that has been ranged and located using the CITS system.

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Task Force Eagle Scoreboard



Scheduled:	3,047
Total Flown:	2,489
PAX:	14,892
Cargo (Short Tons):	22,839
Vehicles:	1,273

4100th announces top performers

by Capt. John Pope

4100th Group (P) Public Affairs

The 4100th Group (P) announced it's monthly award winners for May at this month's commander's call June 14.

A1C. Randall G. Goodnight, 4100th Communications (P), and SSgt. Daniel J. Frazier, 4100th Logistics Squadron (P) were named airman and NCO, respectively, of the month.



Goodnight displayed expertise as the only Secure Comm Maintenance technician deployed to Tuzla AB. He was able to troubleshoot and identify problems with the cryptographic equipment and connections that had been causing unscheduled downtime for the Telecommunications Center's AUTODIN circuit since the beginning of Operation Joint Endeavor. By completely rewiring the circuit and replacing faulty equipment, he was able to reduce circuit downtime by over 75 percent.

Goodnight aggressively helped other 4100th Group (P) units in solving problems. He planned, coordinated and carried out a move of CTAPS equipment at the 1st Armored Division Headquarters building. The entire move was completed in under 15 minutes of actual equipment downtime, ensuring essential air operations

data continued to flow in a timely manner.

A true team member, Goodnight is always willing to help with projects outside his assigned specialty. He was responsible for reinstalling Local Area Network cable Ethernet cabling from the passenger terminal to the newly constructed Army R&R tent. He also volunteered for additional duty as the Communications Focal Point controller augmentee.

Frazier took the role of a senior NCO, managing over \$2.5 million worth of vehicles and tools with zeal. He rallied his mechanics to maintain a 90 percent Vehicle-In-Commission-Rate -- 3 percent higher than the USAFE average. He kept the Postal, Fire Department and Explosive Ordnance Disposal section vehicles at 100 percent efficiency, enabling them to continue their mission critical operations.

Thriving under difficult circumstances, Frazier piloted a snow removal equipment plan that advocated in-house maintenance at Tuzla. His innovative plan proved high quality maintenance could still be achieved while saving \$50,000 in unnecessary transportation costs.

Frazier meticulously monitored the Maintenance Control and Analysis function for Vehicle-Down-for-Parts and Vehicle-in-Commission rates.

He coordinated a hazardous waste disposal plan for the entire 4100th Group (P) with Brown and Root contractors, resulting in streamlined procedures for the disposal of petroleum, batteries and MRE heaters.



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The next step for the control party is to take the data they've generated and create a brief useable by the fighters flying the CAS mission.

"With the data, we made up the fighter briefs to send back. The CAS brief contains everything they need to fly the mission and hit the target," said Mendoza.

The Navy fighters practicing this time were F-14s.

"Normally they're air interceptors, but they did an outstanding job," said Mendoza.

Though the control party is made up solely of Air Force people, they've been trained to support any kind of aircraft. The Combined Air Operations Center in Vicenza, Italy, makes the decision of what aircraft to use for a CAS mission in the B-H theater.

"We can work CAS with anybody. The second set of fighters on that mission were French Mirage 2000s," said Mendoza.

On a typical mission, the tactical controller will carry close to 80 lbs. of equipment. The standard contents of the ruck sack include a PFC-113 radio, six sets of batteries, the CITS unit, a GPS receiver with batteries, two sets of night vision goggles, all the maps for the area, food and water for three days, and comfort items, like

sleeping bags, toileteries and a change of undergarments.

The team typically has two enlisted members and one officer. The enlisted members are the actual tactical controllers, while the officer supervises and coordinates.

"Normally, I'm the guy who coordinates with

the army," said Castillo. "On this mission, I coordinated the helicopter supports to get us out to the base camp, then to the range. I take care of where we eat, sleep, etc."

"In our field, the officer takes care of all the boring details so the enlisted can do the fun job - controlling the air strikes," said Mendoza.

USAFE's top enlisted visits Tuzla

CMSgt. Eric W. Benken, USAFE Senior Enlisted Advisor (far right) took a moment out of his tour of Tuzla AB to pose with the 4100th EOD (P). CMSgt.

Bill Jennings, 17th Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor (second from left) accompanied Benken. "Having been down here in December when this thing started, it's amazing to see the quality of life and force protection enhancements you've made," said Benken of the Air Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



(U.S. Air Force image by Capt. John Pope)



THE Tuzla Times

Published for the men and women of the 4100th Group (P)

"The Wings of Task Force Eagle"

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*4100th Operations Squadron
Radar Maintenance*

Hometown: Killeen, Texas

Age: 26 years

Specialty: Combat radar technician

Home Unit:

Time in service: 2 years, 4 months

Time at Tuzla: 1 month, 14 days

Deployed mission: To keep the radar on the air 24-hours a day and ensure that it is properly aligned to safely separate and land aircraft, which becomes even more critical during inclement weather.

Hobbies: I like to hunt, fish and work on cars.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I see myself out of the Air Force and working on radar or wireless communications systems.

What do you like most about Tuzla?

I like the mountains and trees around the Air Base

What do you like the least? That I can't go out in the mountains and woods around the base.

Leave need not be wasted

*by Capt. John Pope
4100th Group (P) Public Affairs*

For all you old timers who have saved up over 60 days of leave (shame on you), you no longer need to worry about losing it when your deployment to B-H goes over the September deadline.

According to MSgt. Curt "Body Count" Herring, 4100th Group (P) PERSCO, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) has announced eligibility requirements for the Military Leave - Use or Lose program and Special Leave Accrual (SLA)

Accrued leave in excess of 60 days is lost at the end of each Fiscal Year unless SLA is approved," warned Herring. "Therefore, commanders and supervisors should encourage all members to use their accrued leave of 60 days before September 30."



*by SrA. Brian Longstreth
4100th Group (P) Security Manager*

Did you know that all the communications you make on government equipment are subject to monitoring. per DoDD 4640.6 and AFSSI 5100? One of the main reasons for this is that all non-secure telecommunications devices are susceptible to being intercepted by potentially hostile intelligence operatives.

Most forms of communications can be monitored with commercially available equipment. For this reason, the Air Force Computer Security (Compusec) program was set

up to monitor Air Force communications systems, including those here at the 4100th Group (P), to prevent classified information from being disseminated by unsecured means. Information obtained from monitoring allows commanders to take disciplinary actions against individuals who disclose classified information during the course of, for example, a telephone conversation.

Never introduce information of a higher classification than the system is rated for and be

extremely careful with any sensitive information.

Here are some examples telecommunications devices:

- Telephones
- Modems and Faxes
- Cellular Phones
- Radios
- Computers
- email

For those here at Tuzla AB, however, there's another option.

"SLA is limited to members assigned to contingency duties where normal leave use is prohibited, such as members serving in a hostile fire or imminent danger pay area for 120 consecutive days, assignment in support of an operational mission at the national level for 60 days or more (Joint Endeavor, Provide Comfort, or Southern Watch, etc), or personnel assigned to units, headquarters, and supporting staffs who, as a result of the aforementioned operations are unable to take leave for 60 days or more," said Herring.

Any personnel assigned to Tuzla AB for 120 days qualifies for the extension, he added. For more information, call Herring or SrA. Roberto "Body Count, Jr." Rodriguez at Ext. 133 or stop by their office at the terminal.

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If you read the Air Force News a few weeks ago, you probably noticed the MSgt who got demoted, ousted, and is serving time for misusing E-Mail.

This is just one example what monitoring can be used for; keep it in mind. You may never know when someone is listening, so use common sense and integrity when using any telecommunications device.



(U.S. Air Force image by Capt. John Pope)

MGen. Hal Hornburg, Combined Air Operations Center Commander, lunches with Col. Dick Rozier, 4100th Group (P) Commander, during his visit Wednesday.

